

She hails from a large, close-knit multi-generational family spanning in age from newborn to age 93.

It is a joy and pleasure to join with Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel of Riverdale in honoring Susan Schwartz for her many and myriad accomplishments for the synagogue and, ultimately for her community. We are all better off for her being among us.

TRIBUTE TO RACHEL DANIEL

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Rachel Daniel is a sophomore at Dawson High School in Brazoria County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

PROCESSING POLITICS

The purpose of creating this nation, The United States of America, was so that the people could have a say in their leaders and politics and people were willing to go against everything they believed and start a war just to earn the right to this liberty. After all the hardships that the Founding Fathers of our nation suffered through in order for us to have a representative democracy, we the people of the United States of America have not only an obligation towards nation but also towards ourselves. Our nation depends on each and every citizen to make an informed decision as well as pick the best people to represent us, and all citizens of America deserves to have leaders who they support and trust.

We were given the rights and freedoms that many nowadays take for granted, but they really should be treasured, valued, and taken advantage of. That is why it is paramount that every citizen of America takes part in the political process. It is the people's chance to express their views for all to hear and to support what has taken centuries to achieve.

The political process is what holds this nation together. It's when our nation unites in the form of many different parties to decide who is fit to run our nation. The people, who are chosen, are the ones who lead us as a nation with the help of many. If we don't participate in the political process of choosing these leaders and then helping to implement new laws and policies, there is no longer any point of having a representative democracy, and everything that has been fought for will have been fought for in vain. All those lives lost for our freedom and democracy will be lives lost in vain. All the blood, sweat, and tears will be in vain. The political process of our nation is what makes us great. Not our education. Not our manufacturing. But, instead, our political process and the unity of the United States of America.

HONORING MRS. GERTRUDE
GRENADA

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a hometown Civil Rights era activist, Mrs. Gertrude Grenada. Mrs. Grenada has shown what can be done through hard work, setting goals, and aiming high.

Mrs. Gertrude Grenada was born March 16, 1933 in Hinds County, MS. Growing up in Bolton, Mississippi, Mrs. Grenada witnessed and experienced a multitude of injustices during an era of legal segregation and Jim Crow. Although at times frightened by intimidation tactics used against her family and others in her community, Mrs. Grenada maintained a resilient and determined spirit to make strides toward ending laws targeting the civil rights and liberties of African Americans.

She received her formal education at the Southern Christian Institute (SCI), located in Edwards, Mississippi. After graduating from SCI, she attended Jackson State University and received a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. For many years, she played an instrumental part in educating preschool children through the Hinds County HeadStart Program.

In addition to her commitment to education, Mrs. Grenada was very active in local strategizing and planning meetings with Freedom Riders and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Because of her determination to invoke positive change during the Civil Rights Movement, Mrs. Grenada also participated in a number of marches, most notably alongside other well-known Civil Rights pioneers, such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Medgar Evers. In 1972, Mrs. Grenada volunteered her time to assist in the election of her hometown's first African American mayor. Her lifelong efforts toward establishing change in her community will be felt for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Gertrude Grenada for her astounding resolve to actively contribute to the cause during the Civil Rights Era in her community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISABLED MILITARY CHILD PROTECTION ACT

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Disabled Military Child Protection Act. This important bill would enable military retirees, investing in a Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), to transfer their benefit to a Special Needs Trust (SNT) to provide long-term care for a disabled child.

Under the SBP, a military retiree can have a portion of his or her monthly retired pay withheld in order to provide, after his or her death, a monthly survivor benefit (55% of base amount of military retired pay at the time of the retiree's death) to a surviving spouse or

other eligible recipient(s). However, by directing SBP annuity payments to an SNT, the retiree may ensure that a dependent, disabled child might continue to qualify for certain benefits, such as Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Medicaid, that are means tested. As you know Mr. Speaker, assets placed into an SNT are not generally counted as income or assets for the purposes of determining eligibility for these benefits. Current individual care costs for a disabled child could exceed \$100,000 a year if he/she has assets greater than the Medicaid threshold.

A SNT can be created by anyone, but there is no current mechanism for a military member to designate a Trust as the beneficiary of his/her SBP. This legislation would enable a SNT transfer similar to what is available to the general public today. This is an equity issue; currently, civilians can create a SNT for their permanently disabled children to ensure they receive care beyond their guardian's death, and are not subject to an income means-test. It is only fair to allow retired military personnel to prepare for the long-term care of their disabled children.

As of March 2011, CBO estimates that the bill would increase mandatory outlays by \$123 million over the 2012–2021 period. The mandatory cost is not directly attributed to DoD, but rather reflects the increased costs to Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Medicaid, since affected dependent children who are currently ineligible for those benefits would become eligible. This legislation would impact approximately 1,065 military dependents who are currently incapacitated beneficiaries under SBP.

This bill would help many Americans who have nobly served our country, like one of my constituents who has a son named Thomas. Thomas was diagnosed with severe autism by the age of 2 and is non-verbal, communicating primarily through hand leading to express he is hungry, wants to take a shower, or go for a car ride. He is unable to independently perform routine activities of daily living such as dressing or tending to his personal hygiene, much less make himself something to eat, ask for help, or let someone know he is in pain. Thomas requires supervision and assistance, around the clock, to ensure his safety needs are met. Other than his severe autism diagnosis, Thomas is healthy and expected to live a normal lifespan. Our constituent, a single parent, is nearly 38 years older than Thomas, and has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. The passage of this bill would allow him the flexibility to plan for Thomas' future care and well-being.

In the name of decency and fairness, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and allow our military personnel some well-deserved peace of mind, knowing that their disabled children can be adequately provided for long after they are gone.

HONORING THE BRICK STORE MU-
SEUM IN KENNEBUNKPORT,
MAINE

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 4, 2013

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the